

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 158903

67

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:RAFEARY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158903

EXDIS - MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COL. MORGAN

REF: BEIRUT 8482

1. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY INFORMATION REFTEL INDICATING COL. MORGAN IS PROBABLY ALIVE AND IN GOOD HEALTH, BUT CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY OF PFLP OR OTHER PALESTINIAN GROUP'S RANSOM OR OTHER BLACKMAIL DEMANDS ON U.S. GOVERNMENT. COMMEND YOUR VIGOROUS AND FULL INVOLVEMENT OF GOL AS RESPONSIBLE HOST GOVERNMENT IN RESCUE OPERATION, AND ASSUME YOU WILL CONTINUE TO CONFINE U.S. ROLE TO BEHIND-THE-SCENES STIMULATION, COUNSELING AND SUPPORT OF GOL EFFORTS. CLEARLY ANY ACTION IMPLYING USG RECOGNITION OF PFLP OR OTHER PALESTINIAN GROUPS AND ALL DIRECT CONTACT WITH SUCH GROUPS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. AS YOU WELL KNOW ALSO, USG AS A MATTER OF POLICY DOES NOT PAY MONETARY RANSOM.

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PAGE 02 STATE 158903

2. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, YOU SHOULD EXPRESS

TO GOL USG'S APPRECIATION OF ITS EFFORTS TO FIND AND RES-
CUE COL. MORGAN. KISSINGER

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NNN

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To: BEIRUT
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